

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11080 211727Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /070 W
-----129813 211732Z /41/47
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8116
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 11080 VICE 1080)

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGCT SHUM EG
SUBJECT: COPTS FULMINATE ON PERSONAL STATUS

REF: CAIRO 10457

1. APRIL 17 COPTIC WEEKLY WATANI DISCUSSED, AT LENGTH, RECENT APPEALS COURT DECISION GRANTING CHRISTIANS RIGHT TO FOUR WIVES. PAPER CLAIMED JOINT SESSION HOLY SYNOD AND MELLI COUNCIL (QUASI-JUDICIAL COPTIC BODY WHICH, PRIOR TO 1955, ADJUDICATED COPTIC PERSONAL STATUS DISPUTES) TO DISCUSS CASE IN DETAIL. MELLI COUNCIL, REPORTEDLY, DENOUNCED APEALY COURT DECISION AS CONFLICTING WITH CHRISTIAN TENETS AND THREATENING SOCIAL PEACE AND NATIONAL UNITY. COUNCIL APPEALED TO PRESIDENT SADAT TO GUARANTEE INTERNAL UNITY AND PROTECTION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY. FOUR MELLI COUNCIL MEMBERS, WHO ALSO REPRESENTATIVES IN PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, SAID TO BE SUBMITTING BILL AMENDING PERSONAL STATUS LAW TO AVOID RECURRENCE APPEALS COURT DECISION. APPEAL OF THIS DECISION, TO COURT OF CASSATION, REPORTEDLY GOING
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FORWARD.

2. WATANI CONTAINED ADDITIONAL ARTICLE WRITTEN BY BISHOP GREGORIOUS (RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGHER STUDIES, COPTIC CULTURE, AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH) DENYING APPLICABILITY OF POLYGAMY FOR CHRISTIANS. BISHOP REQUESTED RECONSIDERATION COURT OF APPEALS DECISION AND ADVOCATED

ALL CASES INVOLVING CHRISTIANS BE TRIED BY COURTS
COMPOSED OF CHRISTIAN JUDGES.

3. IN THIS VEIN, AND ON MORE RADICAL NOTE, COLUMNIST IN
SAME PAPER CRITICIZED 1955 CANCELLATION OF MELLI COURT'S
JUDICIAL FUNCTION AND ADVOCATED COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW
PERSONAL STATUS LAW TO ELIMINATE LOOPHOLE WHICH PRMITTED
APPEALS COURT REACH "REGRETABLE" DECISION.

4. COMMENT: ISSUE LIKELY REMAIN ALIVE AND TROUBLESOME
UNTIL APPEALS COURT DECISION REVERSED AND COPTS RECEIVE
ASSURANCE THEY WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO MUSLIM LAW. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES, COURT DECISIONS, MARRIAGES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Markings:
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